

June

HACKNEY GUTTER PRESS

3p

NUMBER
3



Dockers Black
Hackney Depot

MAPLEDENE
ROAD

East End Womens
Conference

Grayling Road
Squat

Demonstrate against
the Mad McElligott

Stoke Newington 8

Hands off Mapledene

INTERNMENT COMES TO HACKNEY

We might feel that what's been going on in Ireland since internment was introduced in August last year is a very far cry from what's happening here in Hackney. In fact the recent trial of four men and women at the Old Bailey who were arrested from a flat in Hackney has uncovered some goings-on that aren't so very different from what's happening in Northern Ireland at the moment.

The four men and a woman are all members of Saor Eire (Free Ireland), a section of the Irish

Republican movement. They were picked up last November and were then taken over to Belfast and were interrogated in the Palace Barracks, a scene of many tortures and brutalities over the last few months. Their interrogator was one Harry Taylor, a Special Branch cop, who has been responsible for most of the interrogations and brutalities at Palace Barracks.

They were then brought back to England where they were charged with being in possession of arms and ammunition. They were kept

inside prison for eight months on remand awaiting trial. The four men were kept in the top security wing at Brixton, which means they were locked up in their cells for 23 hours a day. The woman, Marjorie Allan, was kept in solitary in Holloway.

When the trial eventually started at the beginning of June, Martin Crawford's case was dismissed almost immediately, as the only evidence against him was a statement supposedly made by him whilst he was being held at the army barracks at Girdwood in Belfast. He was interrogated by the R.U.C. Special Branch, who punched him in the chest and stomach, boxed his ears and shoved a loaded, cocked pistol into his mouth.

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

Two Special Branch cops then arrived from London to take a statement from him, in which he is alleged to have said that he knew about stealing the arms which all the arrested were charged with having in their possession. The statement also gave a detailed description of the raid. Crawford says that he was in very bad physical and mental condition when he was supposed to have made the statement and has no memory of having made it. The statement was declared *not admissible* because it was taken under duress.

It then turned out that the majority of the case against the other four was based on Crawford's statement in which he is supposed to have implicated the others.

A few days later the prosecution withdrew the case against the other four. Things were definitely getting too hot and uncomfortable for them. Since then a lot of interesting facts have been uncovered about the case.

The defence kept mentioning the names of two men - John Parker and Dave Lee, who they maintained were Special Branch men who had actually won the confidence of the accused and then planted the arms on them.

The police witnesses refused to admit to any knowledge of these men, but subsequently some newspaper reporters have been talking to one of them, John Parker.

Parker admits that he has worked for the Special Branch on and off - he is a retired army sergeant. He also admits that he was working for the Special Branch whilst he was keeping the company of the five defendants.

He got talking to one of the defendants, Eamon Pettigrew, in a pub and was subsequently introduced to the other defendants who were all working on raising funds to send to aid the Republican Movement in Northern Ireland.

The defendants maintain that it was Parker himself who did a lot of the organisation of their activities, like hiring a flat to start up a clothes factory, and hiring a car for them to drive around in.

It was also Parker and Lee who moved in some boxes of things a few days before the raid by the police.

The defendants say that Parker did actually show them some rifles and guns in these boxes, but none of them were actually in working order, and could not have been used.

These were the guns that were produced as evidence by the police. Amongst the evidence were also three pistols, which the police maintained had been stolen in Birmingham. On enquiry it was found that these pistols had indeed been stolen in Birmingham in 1969, but had, in fact, been recovered and kept in police custody ever since.

So, as soon as the going got sticky, the police backed out, and Sir Peter Rawlinson, the Attorney General, stepped in to try and patch things up with statements like: "Crawford's statements about his interrogation obviously affected the course of the case... and it emerged that the full facts could not be put before the jury... and it was agreed that prosecution should not, IN THE INTERESTS OF JUSTICE, continue."

Whose Justice?

It was, in fact, Parker who set the stage for the police raid. The defendants were furious with Parker for leaving the boxes of arms on the premises of their flat, and told him to get rid of them. Parker told them to meet him there at 3.30 the next afternoon.

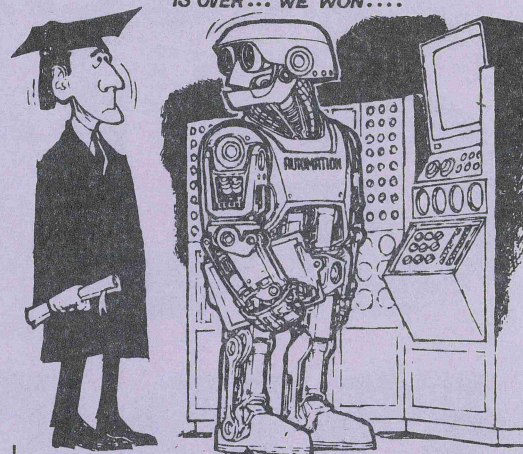
That afternoon, the defendants turned up - but Parker didn't.

And guess who did? About forty cops and Special Branch.

Four men and a woman were held in solitary for eight months on completely phoney charges based on evidence that had been rigged against them by police Special Branch agents.

They were picked out for this treatment simply because of their political sympathies with the Republican movement in Northern Ireland and their activities to raise money.

OH...HAVEN'T YOU HEARD?—
THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION
IS OVER... WE WON....



INTERMENT CAN'T HAPPEN HERE?

More and more of this sort of thing has been going on in London recently - The Mangrove Nine: nine black people, arrested and charged after a police raid on their local restaurant. Out of the thirty-four charges brought against them, only seven of the least serious ones were proven; The Metro Six: six black youngsters who were charged with causing riot and affray after a police raid on their local youth club.

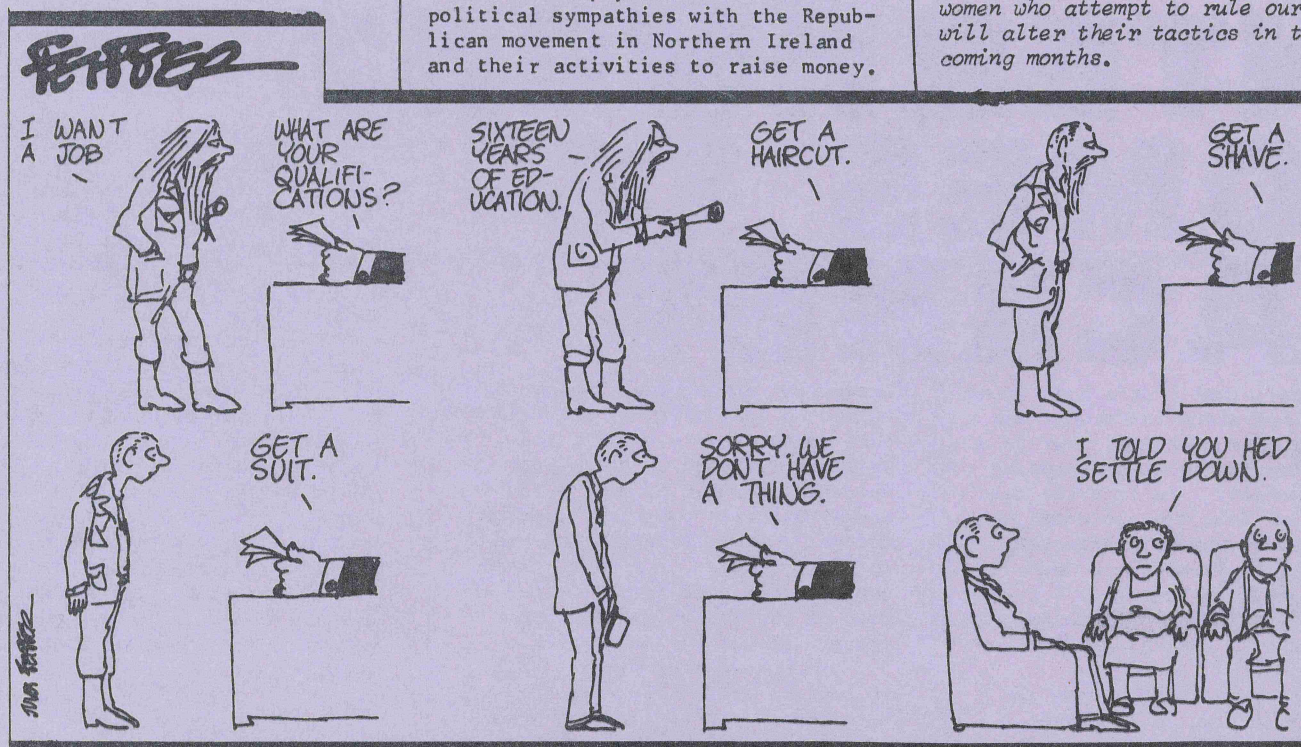
NONE of the charges against them were proven.

Ian Purdie, held in Brixton under top security for ten months.

Found NOT GUILTY because there wasn't a scrap of evidence against him apart from his previous political activities.

It is obvious from the outcome of the case against the members of Saor Eire, and the other cases mentioned above that there is and has been, a consistent policy of political terrorism by the government, and the Home Office acting on behalf of the boss class.

While it is encouraging that juries are failing to convict we should not be under any illusions that the badly-frightened men and women who attempt to rule our lives will alter their tactics in the coming months.



Jim Greenfield, John Barker, Anna Mendelson, Hilary Creek, Chris Bott, Stuart Christie, Angela Weir and Kate McKlean have become known as the "Stoke Newington Eight". Six of them were arrested last August at a flat in Amhurst Road, Stoke Newington. Five of them have been in custody ever since.

They are charged with, among other things, conspiring to cause explosions for which the "Angry Brigade" have claimed responsibility.

All are political activists involved in various sections of the movement such as squatting, claimants unions, gay liberation, womens liberation and industrial struggles. The eight were fighting for warmth, life, freedom. They like drinking and having lots of fun. They're like you and me. They're our friends.

Three Defend Themselves

All have pleaded *NOT GUILTY* to all charges against them, and three have had the courage to take on the task of doing their own defence, with the assistance of McKenzie advisors.

Mr. Justice James who is currently running the show at the Bailey (so he thinks) is a member of the establishment. His main interest is in protecting it. He repeatedly emphasises the lengths he is prepared to go to ensure a fair trial (in front of the jury) and tries to be sympathetic to those defending themselves.

Bloody Judge James

But consider a few glimpses at another side to his lordship. This judge is the author of the James Report, which relieved the police force of all responsibility for brick planting Challoner's insanity. *He gave the train robbers thirty years!*

It took three hours for the twelve good men and true to be selected; 39 were challenged by the defendants and 19 admitted they were biased. It is unusual for the jury to ever be asked questions in this country, and clearly something of a precedent has been set in the political questions that were asked in this one.

Questions like were any of the jurors friends or relatives, or a constituent of Robert Carr, John Davis or Sir Peter Rawlinson. "Are you a subscribing member of the Conservative Party?" Had any juror any knowledge of the social or political activities of the Eight that might cause them to be biased?

The final result was an all male jury and mostly from working class areas in the East End, including Hackney.

STOKE NEWINGTON EIGHT AT THE BAILEY

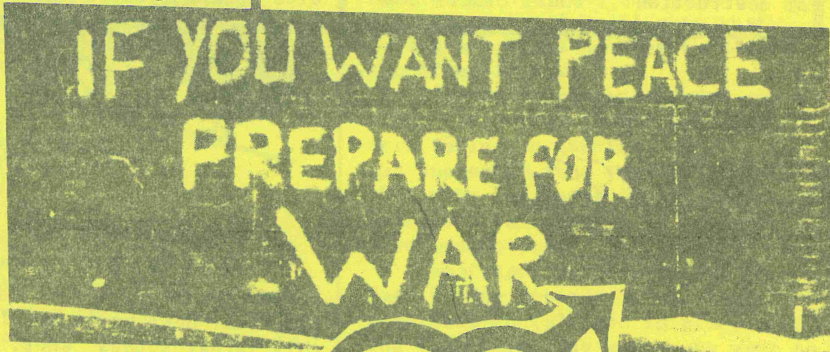
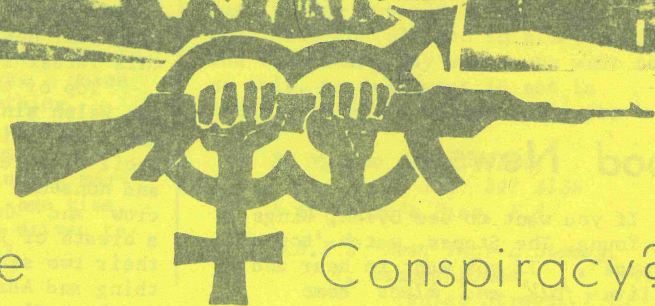


Photo. taken at Chobham Farm Picket, Friday, June 16th, by Hackney Gutter Press photographer.



Whose

Conspiracy?

On Tuesday, June 6th, a demonstration was held outside the Bailey to express solidarity with the Eight - also it was reported that the words "Whose Conspiracy" were spray-painted on the front wall on Thursday, June 1st.

The most glaring examples of total fabrication to date are verbals, especially against Jim. During an account of his supposed interrogation by Commander Bond after his arrest, Bond is supposed to have said, "I don't believe a word of this, Mr. Greenfield."

Jim seized the moment and shouted from the dock: "No, neither do I". When asked by Judge James to control himself he pointed out that it was difficult to sit quietly when listening to such a load of rubbish.

Who are the 137 other suspects?

Time and again when vital evidence is withheld by the prosecution, the defences' objections are rejected by Judge James. All the prosecution need say is "To release this information is not in the public interest. For example, who were the 137 Angry Brigade 'suspects'."

This is one of the most important political trials for a very long time. *If the jury convict these eight young people, Judge James will send them down for a very long time.*

If we don't stand by them, and show the State that we are not going to take it, whose going to stand by you and me when they come for us. If we don't realise the time is now, the time will never come.

We are all
ANGRY



There are too many
Jake Prescotts

"WE ARE CERTAIN THAT EVERY SINGLE DAY THAT THESE COMRADES STAY BEHIND BARS WILL BE AVENGED....EVEN IF IT MEANS THAT SOME OF THE PIGS WILL LOSE THEIR LIVES...." (Communique 7 The Angry Brigade)

I don't have a cause - yet, just observations and a few random thoughts - they need refining and exploring.

INDUSTRY HOUSING ENVIRONMENT

Perhaps its a failing of our computer age educational system, which has transistorised our thought process to the extent that we believe we are nearing a natural LOGIC, a fundamental ORDER to everything we see around us, and only too willingly do we accept the decisions of the quadratic equated bureaucracy, which results only in chaos.

Nor can we blame the faceless, anonymous army of politicians and technicians that drive the machinery of destruction..."their orders come

from here and there and you and me - brothers can't you see..."

'Hackney' wherein lies its origins and traditions? Is there anything left of them? How can the past help solve our present day problems?... for if time has any value other than historical association, it must surely be its experience?

The questions we now ask aren't all new, and those that are must benefit from solutions supported by more solid foundations? Can lost arts be resurrected with the help

of modern technology and employed with our armoury in the battle for reason?

Over the next few issues I will make an attempt to outline and analyse the historic development of the built environment in Hackney and at the same time explore the possible inferences on future directions. If anyone would like to contribute...feel free.

Donovan



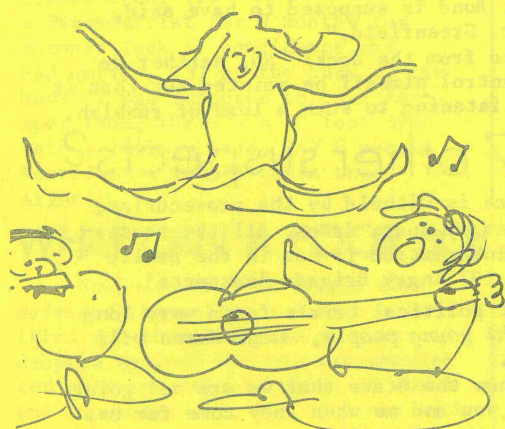
The Crypt Club

Good News

If you want to see Dylan, Wings, Neil Young, The Stones, watch 'top of the pops'. If you want to hear and see live *folk and blues* come along to the Crypt at

St. Thomas Church, Oldhill Street, Upper Clapton, E.5.

First and Last Friday every month.



I know the 50 or so who came last time will need no persuasion to revisit this latest sounds shop.

Top of the bill were 'Windfall', two Welsh singers, with two guitars and a mandoline between them. Their mixture of contemporary folk and nonsense songs like 'The Scarecrow' and 'Where are you going?' were a breath of fresh air. In between their two sets Chris Jones did his thing and Adrian's 'Talking Viet-Nam Pot Luck Blues' got everyone together. 'The Group' are improving all the time and their material ranging from Simon and Garfunkel to traditional 'John Barleycorn' is well chosen to suit the two girls' voices and the two accompanying guitars with some fine harmony voice work drew well-deserved applause. In addition was a violin and guitar duo. Not that many girls have the guts to face an unknown audience anyway but to grab their attention with 'Bridge over Troubled Water' on violin is something special.

Finally an unexpected visitor, Duffy Power, snuffed out all but dim memories of all that had gone before. Anyone who left before he came on missed a rare treat. One of the best blues singers around at the moment, playing a driving guitar rhythm with Paul Rowan on magical harmonica, his 'Open the

Door' and other blues standards had everyone jumping. The dark corners of the underground hall came alive with dancing-bodies. He finished just before midnight with the haunting 'Sad Song' and Clapton didn't seem the same any more.

Even Better News!

Duffy Power was so knocked out by the response and atmosphere of the club, he is interested in becoming resident singer! so get along there every first and last Friday of the month. Membership 5p. Entrance 25p. Half-time food and drinks too.



women-you can unite!

Between two and three hundred women met at the London College of Furniture in Commercial Street in Stepney this Saturday. We came from East and North East London to work out how we could fight and help other women to fight such common causes of misery and oppression as constantly rising food prices, transport prices, and rents; and to talk about the continuing use of women as cheap labour in the factories and as unpaid labour in the home.

When a factory owner pays a man a wage he gets two workers for the price of one: and the money your man gives you for housekeeping goes straight back into the bosses pocket - his profit on the goods we need to buy.

There was a lot of disagreement about whether women who are not 'working' at jobs they get wages for have any power to change things. Lots of us felt that they do, through the kinds of activities talked about, and that almost all women, whether in a factory, office or at home, whether they get wages or money from their husbands or squeeze it out of the S.S., always have to work, and that the kinds of work they do are as important, and as awful to do as the jobs men do.

IS THIS THE REACTION
YOU GET FROM YOUR MAN
AFTER A DAY OF UNPAID
HOUSEWORK?



We do the buying that keeps their profits up - we do the feeding of the workers to give them the energy to work for the bosses.

With rises in rents and fares and food prices supported by the government, housewives can and are taking action together. In the past, the price of corn was kept down by the fear of East Anglian women lynching the miller; fifty years ago women in the East End were selling bread at what they thought was a reasonable price.

Today, in Ilford, housewives are hitting at the big supermarkets with mass buy-ups of the week's cheap offer.

These were some of the actions suggested and supported by the women at the meeting:

Large groups of women and children insisting on travelling free on buses;

open raids on supermarkets;

food co-operatives, where a number of families including at least one person with a car or van club together to buy veg-

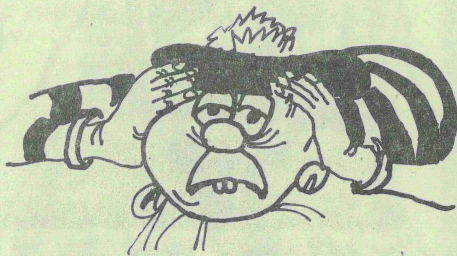
etables and basic groceries from wholesale markets such as Spitalfields and Covent Garden and cash and carries.

Women from tenants' associations and tenants unions told us how they were helping to organise estates all over London. In Harlow the local trades unions have pledged to strike if any council tenant withholding their rent is threatened with eviction when the 'fair' rents act is enforced. This is the kind of support the tenants' unions need.

Tenants of privately-owned property are also organising on a street basis to support council tenants by refusing to pay higher rents and by taking landlords to the rent tribunal.

May Hobbs was there - the nightcleaner who first started a campaign to get women night cleaners better pay and conditions than the miserable ones they have had. She spoke about the need to be united and to fight against the union officials as well as the bosses.

DO YOU FEEL UNAPPRECIATED?
CAN'T COMPETE WITH
THE CENTRE PAGE PIN-UP?



Most people there thought that expecting the unions to really fight for better conditions, equal pay and so on for women was a waste of time. But that joining a union was still better than nothing.

The night cleaners after a long battle with both bosses and union officials have finally managed to get a £3 a week wage rise. Will women eventually be driven to forming their own unions?

OR ARE YOU THE
CENTRE PAGE PIN-UP?
LOVED ONLY FOR YOUR
LOOKS?



'ERE V'ROOMSHKA
-WHY DON'CHA
COME ALONG NIV US?
WE'RE GOING TER
THIS BIG WOMEN'S
DO IN COMMERCIAL
STREET?
C'MON DUCKS
- LETS
ENJOY
OURSELVES
FER A CHANGE



There was talk about free abortion and contraceptives.

There was some preliminary talk about getting a women's centre in East London where women could come, the kids could play; where they could come to talk together and plan actions - a place where women could be in touch and get to know each other.

There was general agreement that all forms of present contraception were unsatisfactory; that there was too little information about how existing contraceptives worked and what they were like to use, how they affected our feelings about our bodies and our lives. And everyone felt that we should agitate for more research to be done. There is money available - it isn't being used - and that we should start pressurising the big drug companies and take over the family planning clinics.

Some people thought that the abortion and contraception campaign had neglected the other side of the coin - the right to have a child.

Sterilization of the poor has frequently been used as an anti-working class weapon in the past and today is often part of a "package deal" for the N.H.S. abortion.

It is the right to choice we must defend, and this means helping unsupported mothers to fight victimisation by the S.S. and fighting for free nurseries for all - so that having a baby is not the burden it too often is now.

Ingrid Stacey and Gladys spoke about the action that pensioners were taking in the East End. It was suggested that Post Offices should be leafleted on Thursdays and Fridays in an attempt to contact more pensioners.

What happens from now on in East London depends on us. We must meet to talk and to plan. For the time being any women who want to do this, or just want to get in touch with other women, can write to:-

20 Myrdle Street, E.1.

Tel: 247 3139

8 St. Mark's Rise, E.8

O.A.P's Mrs. Ingrid Stacey,
7, Weaver House,

Pedley Street, E.1.

"If he dies, it will save us t

6

Albert Edward Chambers of 96, Cricketfield Road, E5, aged 74 wrote in March to Lower Clapton Social Security Office. He explained that he needed slippers, dressing gown, pyjamas, towel and soap. The doctor had warned him that unless he went into hospital he would not live for more than three months.

They didn't reply to the letter, but sent a giro of £9.80. This would only go to one or two of the items needed.

On the day, Mr. Chambers went into hospital, May 16th, he sent Lower Clapton SS a second letter. He explained that the people of nearby Powell House had offered to club together to pay his convalescence if he underwent the operation. They would pay £42 for his fare and holiday. But could not stretch to clothes. Mr. Chambers asked for a suit, shoes, two shirts, underpants, vests, etc.

There was no reply and Mr. Chambers contacted the Hackney Claimants' Union. Julie Curlie visited him in hospital two or three times and went to Lower Clapton SS at least two times on his behalf. She was told: "If he dies it will save us the expense!"

Two Union Members Arrested

On the second visit, she was accompanied by 10-12 other members of the union. The police were called in, interviews and money refused to claimants and Claimants' Union members were removed from the office.

Outside, Miss Curlie was arrested while trying to return to the office to press Mr. Chambers' clothing grant. Heather Logan was arrested when she tried to explain to Julie that the police were looking for trouble and that it would be better to wait a bit.

And Meet Mad McElligott

At Old Street the following day, the mad McElligott let them out on £200 bail each on charges of loitering with intent (Julie) and assaulting the police (Heather).

Julie explained what had happened to Mr. Chambers, who wrote a registered letter to the Ombudsman at the House of Commons. In the letter he mentioned that abusive language had been used against Julie and the statement about his death saving SS expense.

The Ombudsman sent a car to take Mr. Chambers to Lower Clapton SS. An official told him to make the application once again, while he remained in the car outside. A blonde woman at the reception said that he couldn't see the manager except by appointment. He replied that he would wait until the manager arrived.

When Mr. Chambers eventually saw the manager, he was told that he would be visited. Mr. Chambers left and reported all this to the Ombudsman's representative.

The Welfare Says: Pay Up

He has still received no payment.

Mr. Chambers next went to the Hackney Borough Council's Welfare for the Aged offices in Kingsland Road. They telephoned Lower Clapton SS office straight away and told them that this was a priority case.

The Welfare have given the SS until Wednesday, 21st June, noon, to pay Mr. Chambers. Otherwise the Welfare will pay Mr. Chambers and send the bill to the Social Security office.

It is rumoured that at least one member of the Lower Clapton staff has been sacked. Mr. Chambers will be writing to the court from his holiday to explain all this in his own words. But will the Mad McElligott listen?



DEMONSTRATE
against the
continuing

Insanity

of the
Mad
McElligott
at OLD STREET court
on June 29th
and demand his
IMMEDIATE
retirement!



Claimants occupy SS office,
Lower Clapton Road, Hackney.

he expense"

KICK THE BASTARDS OUT

One member of the Hackney Claimants' Union, an unsupported mother, was recently visited by a man purporting to be from Hackney Borough Council.

This member has been waiting anxiously to be rehoused and was only too happy to answer the man's questions.

He returned the following day and continued to ask questions. She began to get suspicious and checked him out with Hackney Council. They said they had not sent anyone.

The man was a Social Security(SS) spy. She caught on, but not before he had taken notes of her furniture, clothing in wardrobes, etc.

She has asked that her name not be published, because she fears retaliation by Lower Clapton SS. When she hears a knock at the door now, her heart sinks. Is it the SS back again?

She came to the Hackney Claimants' Union meeting, and with another member, went on to lobby her MP, Clinton Davis.

Questions are being asked about the SS's 300 or so snoopers.

But questions are not enough. Claimants Unions demand an immediate end to the "cohabitation" rule which provides an excuse for this spying. And we'll force them to rip it from the rule book. If a stranger comes to the door demand his credentials. If they refuse or have none, kick them out. Then get help. If you are an unsupported mother, then charge him with attempted rape.

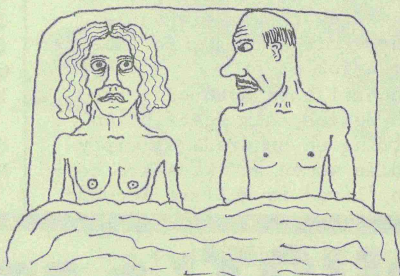
What's in a file?

When Brendan Maher of Southwold Road, Upper Clapton went to make a claim for social security benefit at Lower Clapton on June 14th, he noticed a clipping from a newspaper in his file.

Feeling that this had no right to be in his file he quickly removed it. It was from the Hackney Gazette, June 30th, 1970, which had reported his being convicted for throwing a brick through his employer's window, in protest against their sacking him without notice.

It seems that the SS staff go through newspapers to keep extra information on claimants. What other steps to they take to spy on claimants?

Reports like this are very disturbing in the light of news reaching Hackney Gutter Press that the Special Branch - Britains' own secret police - have been going through files at Arcola Street SS, Stoke Newington. And probably at Bonhill Street and Lower Clapton!!!

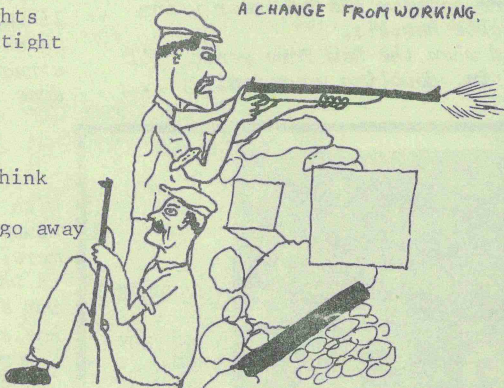


"BY THE WAY, I'M FROM THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL SECURITY."

The What? Where? Why? Song

So we're agitating for civil rights
So we're fighting for citizens rights
So we're on the march, right on uptight
So what ---

AH, WELL, IT MAKES
A CHANGE FROM WORKING.



Hackney is grim, Hackney is grey
You don't have to be a genius to think that way
If you don't give a fuck it won't go away
That's the way it'll always stay.

Don't grumble - SHOUT
Don't hide - COME on out.
Don't be trampled - STAMP your feet
PAINT THE PAVEMENTS

Don't grumble - SHOUT
Don't hide COME on out
Don't be trampled - STAMP your feet
Get TOGETHER on every street.
LIGHT BONFIRES.

As the last blade of grass is
crapped on by the last pigeon,
As bingo becomes a recognised religion,
As the child's face is crushed
by the skidding lorry,
Its a thousand chances too late
to say you're sorry

(Light bonfires in your area every
Saturday night - there's always
plenty of rubbish lying around.)

Black Tenants Fight Back

Haggerston Estate, Hackney, seems from the outside to be an ordinary unattractive 19th century Council Estate. A closer look reveals a badly neglected estate with cramped damp flats and inadequate facilities. Into these squalid conditions the GLC have been settling more and more black tenants (there are now over 60 black families living on the estate) alongside white problem families.

Ever since the first black families moved in, they have been experiencing continuous harassment and provocation from their neighbours in the form of physical attacks (particularly on women and children), broken windows from bricks and stones and fire pushed through their letter boxes. Parents talk despairingly of their constant fear for the lives of their children - one father commented "it is a miracle that there hasn't been anyone killed on the estate yet." One 9 year old boy has become so frightened and nervous that his mother often has to remain in the room all night.

(Reprinted from FREEDOM NEWS, the newspaper of the BLACK PANTHER MOVEMENT in Britain (June 10th issue.)

United Action

We telephoned the Black Peoples' Information Centre about the above article and let them know that Hackney Gutterpress could be used to let local people know what was going on on Haggerston Estate. A spokesman for Black Peoples' Information Centre said they would let black residents on Haggerston Estate know how to contact us and volunteered the additional information that one black woman had been attacked and hospitalised, and that after repeated attacks on black residents, a black residents tenants action committee had been formed. Police had been frequently called and complaints made about these attacks, but police took no action.

Subsequently, representatives of the black tenants on Haggerston Estate had been to see the police. Community Liaison Officer with, predictably, no results.

Local police have been frequently called after attacks and have taken no action.

It would be great if local white tenants could show some solidarity with the black tenants on Haggerston Estate, but that can only be forthcoming if such solidarity is requested.

A united tenants campaign against the abysmal conditions on Haggerston Estate would be the complete answer to the racists who seek to divide us.

Grayling Road Squat

A lot of people reading this issue of Hackney Gutter Press will also have read the Friday 16th Hackney Gazette's front page splash headlined: *Squatters Set For Head-on Clash*. Some will remember an article in the first issue of the Gutter Press about these same families.

Much has happened since that first article, enough to take up this whole issue. But here anyway, are the main events.

At the High Court ---

After the first High Court hearing at which the Council's summonses were thrown out of court, the families realised they would never get a fair hearing anyway unless they got organised - and not just organised to defend themselves in court.

--- Judge Makes Promises

At the second hearing, the Judge refused at first to hear any defence, and even when he did, dismissed it out of hand. However, touched by the families' appeals, he demanded and received from the Council's representative, and gave to the families, an assurance that re-housing would be arranged before the evictions took place.

It is now over a week since the repossession orders took effect and no offers of any kind have been made to any of the families by the Council. One unsupported mother of four went to the Welfare in Kingsland Road and reminded them of the Judge's assurances.

But the Welfare Waver

She was told that she *might* get Welfare accommodation *after* the evictions - but no promises could be made. When she told the District Officer she would have to squat again,

she was advised to do just that. Another family went to SHELTER and were refused help, because, quote, "Shelter is Council backed".

Councillor Wilson's Home

But the families were not going to be bullied by the Council, Welfare or "charities". They got angrier and better organised. Comprehensive press releases were prepared and dozens sent out. On Sunday, June 4th, a demonstration was mounted by the families and supporters outside the home of Councillor Kenneth Wilson, chairman of the Housing Management Committee, which is responsible for Council evictions. (He lives in one of the best flats in a new, as yet incomplected Council housing project.)

His neighbours were handed leaflets explaining the situation and most were sympathetic. They were all ready to 'attend' the scheduled meeting of his Committee but found that the dates had been switched. The individual committee members, all but one of them Labour councillors, received circulars outlining the situation that same evening...They all know what's going on.

Now at last it looks like they've woken up to reality. The evictions have been deferred. Councillor Wilson will review the case when he returns home off holiday. He'd better make a good job of it.

His Council have a Housing record which defies calm description. He is sitting on hundreds of empty houses while women and kids are condemned to 'live' in Welfare Accom-



modation, and thousands more people in Hackney alone are in urgent need of a home.

People like these squatting families very soon realise what a lot of us have been shouting for a long time - that you cannot trust "democratically elected representatives" in an undemocratic society.

More and more people are taking to solving their problems in their own way, that's what the families have done. And by carrying on the fight against the Council they are exposing a housing crisis in Hackney which cannot be solved by the system which caused it.

The Squatters Are Organising

The North London Squatters' Association want to take over empty Council houses and give homeless people a chance to a home *without* suffering the Council lies, the harassment and the fear of the bailiffs' dawn attack which has been the lot of the families in Grayling Road and Barratt's Grove.

Contact the NLSA through Mrs. Helen Vennard, 32, Grayling Road, Stoke Newington, N16.

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO ORGANISE

COME AND SQUAT: a rough guide

It's getting to the stage where it's hardly worth trying to rent a flat of your "own". As the landlords' power increases, the more they'll misuse the tenants. Already, people are paying £7 p.w. for a tiny, rat-infested, basement room - liable to be evicted at any time as houses are sold to property "infestors" and emptied so they can capitalise on the growing price of property.

Go to the council, and you'll be met by vague promises that "you're on their list." If you get a place from them, it'll probably be in the most squalid, remote, corner of Town (and you have to take it) or be barricaded in one of their uninhabitable hostels.

And when the New Fare rents bill comes in, doubling your rent.....

You can avoid all this degrading neglect - forget it all and come and squat! It's far less risky, far easier than you might think, if you follow a few simple guidelines.

First, find an empty house to your liking (there are hundreds in Hackney). Check that its plumbing, wiring, and structure do not need too much work done to them.

WHOSE THE OWNER

Find out the owner, and discuss with friends what he may do. If the house is privately owned, it could merely be some insignificant figure in the books of a property 'infestor'. But equally, it could be someone who has sweated all his life to pay off a mortgage and wants to retire to Clacton. Housing Associations are allegedly charities whose desire it is to look after 'homeless families' and if you are one of the millions not in a "family", tough. Councils are legally obliged to put roofs over the heads of homeless people - like halfway houses, hostels and prisons.

CONNECT THE SERVICES

Water, gas and electricity can be connected quite easily - a friend or



LANDLORDS
DESTROY.
THE
SQUATTERS
REBUILD

a fellow squatter can probably be found to do it. Notify the relevant authorities as soon as possible, so they can't nick you for the theft. If you can't connect these services, the relevant authorities, eg, the LEB, are legally obliged to supply them to the occupier of the house on demand. That may take a few days, though.

Take in your furniture, CHANGE THE LOCK, and put curtains up. You then have Squatters' Rights. The owner can't legally get you out without going through the civil courts for a possession order, which could take months. When you move in, don't let the Old Bill have a chance to nick you for breaking and entering by, for example, being seen smashing down the door. (Most houses can be entered without 'breaking' - open door/window, through back, etc.)

ORGANISE OUR SELF DEFENCE

The owners, especially private and GLC, don't always follow their law; they resort to paid heavies to force you out. This makes it essential to get in contact with other squatters in the area to work out a common defence; strength in numbers.

Some squatters have formed associations, as in East and South East London, which have made deals with their councils and have ended up employing full time social workers and even charging rent! This, of course, is the very thing that we want to avoid. We squat so that we can be independent of the authorities who have pushed us around and done us in. The only people we can trust is ourselves. Let someone else, the non squatters, the "do gooders" do it for us, and they'll do it wrong.

FREE HOUSING

So, if you can, move into an area where you know there are other squats already. The more of us, the stronger we are to challenge the greedy landlords, the indifferent council, the whole idea that property only belongs to the rich. Why pay rents at all? HOUSING SHOULD BE FREE. By squatting, you can become self reliant, living in a place where you choose how you live and have the space to do things you've dreamed of for years!

*****There is a self-organised, independent, group of squatters at the Dalston end of Stoke Newington. They can be contacted through the Hackney Claimants' Union.

HANDS OFF MAPLEDENE

Hackney Borough Council has no coherent plan for the future of Hackney. Its bulldozers smash down street after street, with complete disregard for the community who live there. In Hackney Gutter Press No. 2, we described how the Council was wrecking the Downs Park/Sandringham Road area for no apparent reason. As most people now know, the same is happening to an even larger area - that around Mapledene Road.

The Mapledene Residents Association of 65, Malvern Road, Dalston, E8 has embarked upon what has so far been a highly successful campaign to resist the compulsory purchase order (CPO), demanding that the area be designated a general improvement area.

The public inquiry at Hackney Town Hall has recently ended. At the close, Hackney Council's case for a CPO was in tatters. There was hardly a fact unchallenged in the Council's report. Hackney Council officers had done very little survey work. For example, there is still no accurate figure for the number of inhabitants of Mapledene and the Council has no idea what it will rebuild there.

During the past year the Mapledene Residents Association has organised a mass of personal protests to the Department of the Environment. They have had a deputation to Hackney Council, very well supported by a lobby. They have carried out a thorough house to house survey of the Mapledene area. They have held 3 public meetings, 2 jumble sales and a dance.

On Wednesday, June 21st, the Residents Association held their first annual general meeting (too late for us to report in this issue). The committee report to this meeting states:

"We are a residents association, and our concern for our homes leads us to demand that Mapledene - all of Mapledene - is designated a general improvement area. This must mean we are concerned with the whole of our environment. We must initiate discussion and action, both in our association and outside it, on all things that go to make a neighbourhood. Houses, Roads, Schools, Public Transport and Private Cars are some of these things. We must make the rights and needs of ourselves and our neighbours, from the very youngest to the oldest, our concern."

TO PLANNERS AND OTHERS

by Eleanor of London Fields

Through family streets, where families live, in houses built as homes,
Whose windows shine with curtain crisp,
Where Gran and Mum and Auntie live,
Each in two rooms, but all in one old, beloved house.

At the top of the road grim tower blocks loom,
Barracks, unit dwellings for unit folk,
No Gran, no Cousin Joe, no mog can find a corner,
All must be accounted for, all must pay a lodger charge.
Vast financial empires grow fat on the interest,
Paid in the ever-growing rents of dwellings,
Factory made, in the hope of producing
Unit people, easy to govern, easy to quell.

No gardens, not even the humble wallflower
All is concrete and wire,
Even the birds forget to sing, except the screeching gulls,
Hunggrily searching for scraps around the bulging bins.

But Hackney is not so easily extinguished,
Look to yourselves, you proud planners,
Who think that your ignoble experiments,
Not good enough for Islington (where you live)
Can be fobbed off on us.

Where are you?

A place where people express themselves in any way they see fit, e.g. poetry, music, drama, dance, etc.

This is the kind of experiment which desperately needs a continuous flow of people and ideas in order to survive.

A small room with scattered chairs and scattered people. Two

EVERY TUESDAY - STAMFORD HILL
LIBRARY - 8pm

Hackney Art Expression

guys tuning up guitars before breaking into an improvised blues. Some girl, name unknown, dancing to the music of Chris Jones and turning us all on. An old guy with a mandoline who smashed the generation gap and made some beautiful sounds. One of the first appearances of a group called 'The Group'. Some evening when two arrived with electric guitars. Assorted refugees from other London folk clubs all different ages, styles and standards. The local gang of wandering poets and

This was all great, is all great, but we've got to get this club, group, whatever you call it, moving... a direction and we need YOU to come and help us get it together.

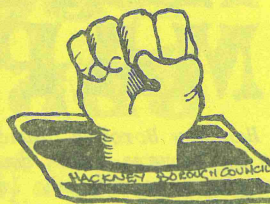
Performers and audience are just as important.

P.S. suggestions for a better name than 'Hackney Arts Expression'. How about 'Hackney Blood Transfusion'?

Bring your ideas next Tuesday evening.

Where were you?

GUTTER LETTERS



Street Fighting Man

As you might have read in the last issue of Gutter Press, 5 people were arrested following a "street fight" in Grosvenor Avenue, Stoke Newington. I was one of them. I'd been listening to the football (Ajax v Arsenal) round a friends house, then been talking till about 12, when Chris Ratcliffe came round, and said there had been trouble at Grosvenor Avenue and we immediately set off to get a Solicitor. Hardly were we outside the front door when a Police van drew up and both me and Chris were dragged inside and charged with assault! Of course, we all pleaded not guilty.

I'd never been in any trouble before, so I let myself be guided by well-meaning friends into being defended by a Lawyer. (the only one - the other four arrested defended themselves!)

POLICE FRAME-UP

The Police evidence was amazing - an absolute frame-up from beginning to end. I was supposed to have run out of a house, jumped on a Police Sergeant's back, punched him, kicked him, grappled with a Police Constable for 20 seconds then run into the house and escaped out the back way. Now (1) I've always been a chronic asthmatic and can't go up a flight of stairs without having to sit down for five minutes to get my breath back, (2) I've been seeing a Psychiatrist for 9 months for chronic lack of confidence and bad nerves, (3) at the back of the house I was supposed to have escaped from, there's a 30 foot drop onto a railway line, (4) 6 people testified I wasn't there that night.

WHAT CAN A POOR BOY DO?

Now, of the four people who defended themselves - 2 were acquitted and the third had charges dropped against her and was convicted only on a minor charge of obscene language. I, the only one with

a Lawyer got a prison sentence for a first offence of one month suspended for two years. Why?

Well - as I was sitting in the Court listening in amazement to my Lawyer failing to pick up point after point, missing obvious contradictions in the police evidence, etc. I suddenly realised *these lawyers couldn't care less whether their clients get off or not* - they get their money, either way. My Lawyer didn't even mention the fact that I was asthmatic. As soon as I was found guilty - a complete miscarriage of justice - I thought, alright, I'll appeal *and I'll do it all myself*. So I had photos taken of the area, got maps out of the library to prove there's no back way out of the house.

Now, the appeal court's much worse than a magistrates court. There are three judges in white wigs and robes and lots of clerks also wearing wigs. Helped by my McKenzie Advisor, i.e. a friend who takes notes etc. in court, when you haven't got a lawyer. I spent four hours attacking the Police case, and only bothered to present two defendant witnesses. Then finally the judges said they weren't satisfied with the police evidence and acquitted me.

Now, I repeat I've been seeing a psychiatrist for nine months for a complete lack of confidence brought on by bad health. So it's not as if I'm particularly pushing or aggressive in any way, in fact, exactly the opposite.

But, after seeing the balls-up my Lawyer made, and waiting for the appeal, a very strange thing happened to my years of inadequacy

All my old ideas of respect for Lawyers and judges fell away. I thought Christ I'm no less intelligent than these people, why should these people take my fate in their hands? - as if I'm a sort of toy.

FIGHT BACK

For the first time in my life I fought back and won!

I still can't believe it. If anybody told me a month ago that I'd soon be organising a court case and standing in front of three judges cross-examining police witnesses for four hours - and winning the case! - I'd have laughed in their faces. But *everybody* with the right frame of mind can do what I did.

The first thing is - don't be intimidated into pleading guilty

for something you didn't do. Then, don't regard judges, lawyers, police, politicians, as Gods, who are better than you - they may wear wigs, robes, have titles and all that, which shows they're doing a certain job, *but they are human beings, not Gods*.

ACQUITTED

10

According to the last Metropolitan Police Commissioners' Report - over 70 coppers in London were suspended, transferred or sacked last year for illegal practices! It makes you think - the people at Grosvenor Avenue did not tamely plead guilty to the framed-up charges - they fought back - and so far *four* out of *six* charges have been thrown out by the courts. But how many similar charges are there every year against, for instance, young lads too scared to fight back and express themselves in court? I'm not saying all coppers are doing that - but I repeat *seventy (70)* were punished for illegal practices in London last year. A start to the problem of writing down these charges is (1) Don't plead guilty and (2) Defend yourselves and don't regard *them* as Gods, - they're human beings like you. Nothing to be scared of. (3) Don't say anything other than *name and address* when arrested.

Don't make a statement!

BRIAN REEVE

All day at school, kids are abused and beaten by teachers "acting under orders".

(Hackney Gutter Press, No.1)

30 Princess May Road, London, N.16

For Christ's sake - statements like this drag you down to the same level as the Mirror and Express.

Talk in terms of reconstruction of society, without emotivism - analytical philosophers could tear you apart.

Think-think-and say what you mean, don't cloud it in mindless propagandist rhetoric.

Respectfully yours,

Join (I fuck lame ducks)
Davies.

pp. I. Major Bumsore
(Sadistic Educator)

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY

The Hackney branch of the Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Society was founded at the beginning of this year. MS is an incredibly restricting disease which can strike at any age and gradually leads to complete paralysis of the the body. The MS group meets once a month for a social evening when MS sufferers can get together. It also provides outings for its members to shows, exhibitions, etc. More volunteers are needed to help in the running of the group and to help in the organisation of the entertainments and fund raising activities.

If you would like to help, or just find out more about it, please contact:

PAT HENDRICK, 34, ALCONBURY RD, E5.

GUTTER ADS

11

CLAIMANTS' UNIONS

HACKNEY CLAIMANTS' UNION

meets Wednesdays at 12.30pm at Centerprise, 34, Dalston Lane, E8. The office is open at that address between two and five on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Tel: 254.9787 The weekly meeting is open to all claimants.

EAST LONDON CLAIMANTS UNION

Dame Colet House, Ben Johnson Road, Stepney, E1. Tel: 790.3867

SPITALFIELDS AND WHITECHAPEL CU

48, Hanbury Street, E1. Tel: 247.2689.

TOTTENHAM CLAIMANTS UNION

71, Broad Lane, N8

Tel: 808.8126

HOMERTON AND SOUTH HACKNEY CU

Kingsmead Community Centre, E9

THE HACKNEY CLAIMANTS' UNION, HAVE STARTED UP A SWOP SHOP. THIS IS SO THAT PEOPLE WHO ARE CLAIMANTS CAN BRING IN CLOTHES AND MATERIAL THAT THEY NO LONGER WEAR OR USE -AND TAKE WHAT THEY NEED.

IT IS OPEN EVERY WEDNESDAY FROM 11PM UNTIL 12.30PM at 4, ABERSHAM ROAD, E8. COME ALONG AND HELP YOURSELF.

***Produced, printed and published by Hackney Gutter Press, c/o, Centerprise, 34, Dalston Lane, E8.

HACKNEY GUTTER PRESS: NEXT ISSUE.

This is the third issues of the Hackney Gutter Press. Again, its shape and form were discussed at 2 open meetings, where people expressed criticisms and suggestions.

The two problems that we want to overcome are the production of the paper once the articles, etc. are in, and distribution.

It is important that an increasing number of people take part in the laying-out of the paper, ie, the design. This is, in fact, the part where the most important decisions are made and can be the most enjoyable.

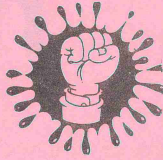
We want more and more people to help sell it. If we know we can sell so many thousand each issue then we can produce the paper more frequently and with more imagination.

We want this newspaper to be used as part of getting to know each other. Organising to fight together. We want it to be used as a weapon to fight for our own control of Hackney.

We want more and more people to write about their experiences, to use Hackney Gutter Press to tell each other what's going on in the area.

No-one owns this paper, no-one is seeking to make a profit from it. Its articles and policy are talked about in open meetings. If you aren't satisfied come and do something about it.

THE NEXT OPEN MEETING will be at Centerprise, 34, Dalston Lane, E8 on Thursday, June 8th at 8pm. Please send or bring any contributions - poems, news, cartoons, comments, etc - by that date.



Activist Advice Centres

Childrens' Rights, Box 70, 55, Stewart Grove, SW3
Gay Liberation Front, legal group, 3, Caledonian Rd. N1
Womens Liberation Workshop, legal study group, 22, Great Windmill St. W1 437.6118

Legal Activists

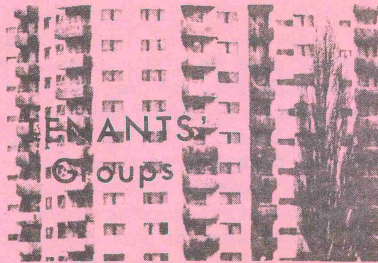
Advise, 313, Upper Street, N1 226.9365
BIT, (information) 141, Westbourne Pk Rd. W1. 229. 8219
Release, 1, Elgin Avenue, 289. 1123

HACKNEY CITIZENS RIGHTS - free aid and advice on Thursday evenings between 6.30 and 7.30 - financial, legal, housing, social security at 34, Dalston Lane. 254.1620

South Hackney Post, available at Centerprise or c/o Toc H Hackney, Prideaux House, 9a, Church Cresc. E9.

GLF

On Tuesday, June 21st, Hackney Gay Liberation Front had its first meeting. It was well attended and they plan to meet each week on Tuesday evenings at Centerprise.



Colville Estate Tenants Association, Mr. Briggs, 2, Upwey House, Whitmore Rd. N1.

Beckers Community Association, Mr. S. Baker, The Beckers, Tectory Rd. N16

St. Mary's Social and Welfare Club, J. Pugh, 104, Weymouth Terrace, E2.
De-Beauvoir New Town Tenants Association, R. Durdridge, 18, St Helier St. De Beauvoir Rd. N1.

George Downing Tenants and Community Association, S. Keene, 44, Joseph Court, Amhurst Park, N16.

Milton Gardens Community Association, J. Harrison, 34, Chaucer Court, Howard Rd. N16.

Morland Estate Community Association, B. Glascock, 41, Mapledene Estate, Mapledene Rd. E8.

Summit Community Association, Cllr. A. Harrison, 9I, Summit Estate, Portland Ave, N16.

Warwick Grove Community Association, Mrs. Bergman, 49, Moreton Close, E5.
Green Lanes Tenants Association, Mrs. P. Collier, 32, Chadworth House, Arnwell Green, Green Lanes, N16.

Hindle House Community Association, K. Silverlock, 24, Shacklewel Lane, E8
Charles Square Tenants Association, W. East, 32, Touchard House, Chart St. N1.

Non-profit Bookshops

Agitprop, 248, Bethnal Green Road, E2
Centerprise, 34, Dalston Lane, E8
Grassroots, 54, Wrightman Rd. N7

Prisoners Groups

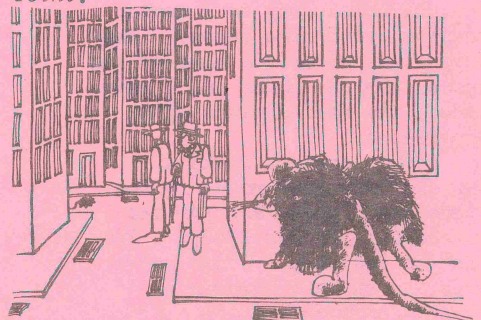
Prisoners' Union, 18, Ashbrook Road, N19. 272.0029
Women in Holloway, 18, Ashbrook Rd, N19. 272.0029
Radical Alternatives to Prison, 104, Newgate Street, EC1. 600.4793

Defence Groups

Stephen McCarthy Defence Group, c/o, 50, Courtney Court, Drayton Park, N5
Stoke Newington 8 Defence Group, c/o, Box 359, 240, Camden High St. NW1.
Tony Sinaris Defence Group, c/o, Black Liberation Front, 54, Wrightman Road, N7
Anti-Internment League, 139, Holland Rd., W14.
Liason Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions, c/o, J. Hiles, 1, Teynton Terrace, N17.



Evering Road Community Association, Mrs. P. Lock, 168, Evering Rd, E5
Hawksley Ct. Community Association, W. Walker, 6 Galsworthy Terrace, Hawksley Ct, Albion Rd, N16.
Lea View Community Association, Mrs. F. Fruin, 53, Lea View House, Springfield, E5.
Nye Bevan Community Association, H. Clark, 138, Nye Bevan Estate, Glyn Rd. E5.
Mount Community Association, T. Brooker, 12, The Mount, Upper Clapton Road, E5.
Trelawney Community Association, R. West, 66, Trelawney Estate, Paragon Rd, E9.
Webb and Chardmore Community Assoc, A. Bennison, 9, Webb Estate, Clapton Common, E5.
Lordship Tenants Assoc, Mr. Beetle, 4, Lordship House, Lordship Rd, N16.
Wenlock Tenants Assoc, Mr Tear, 34, Bletchley Ct, Wenlock St N1.
St. Johns Tenants Assoc, Miss M. Scott, 112, Buckland Ct. N1.
Troubridge Est. Alf Toye, 42, Devereux Point.



"Yes, the rats around here seem to get bigger every day..."

Correction: The next meeting of the Hackney Gutter Press is on July 6th at 7.30pm

the story of one man's house

12.

Hackney, it seems, has become the centre of interest for the mobile middle class. As everyone who has walked along the streets of the area in the last few months is aware, houses in Hackney have become the latest in fashion. The news has even got as far as the pages of the 'Sunday Times' who ran a story in the Magazine several weeks ago in which Stoke Newington, Hackney and Dalston were named as areas that are likely to become fashionable in the next few years. This is even more amazing in that the area has not got a single tube line going anywhere through the area, and if the G.L.C. and British Rail have their way there will be one more motorway and one less rail line. The area is however beside the fashionable Islington, and it is in direct line between the West End and the proposed new airport.

A PLACE TO LIVE

To illustrate what has been happening of late, let me give an example close to home. Last winter I was attempting to find a small cheap house to try to reduce the amount of money I was then paying for housing to a reasonable amount. I found a small two-storey place which appeared to be abandoned, in my walks about the area. It was in the middle of a long row of council terrace house, and I found from discussions with the people living next door that it had once been a council place as well. Several years ago the houses in this terrace row had been offered for sale to the tenants but only the tenants of this one house had decided to buy. Who owned this property? I thought, and how to find out?

UP AGAINST THE BUREAUCRATS

First I called the Hackney Town Hall and explained the problem. The telephonist put me on to the Rating Department. At first they said they didn't know who owned the house because the rates hadn't been paid for some time but I persisted and they suggested that if I sent them a letter for the owner they would pass it along but they wouldn't tell me who the owner was. I thought it strange in our property-owning democracy that I could not find out directly who owned a piece of property, but I consented.

A week later a letter arrived advising me that the property that I was interested in was being sold by the courts as it was part of an estate for which there were no heirs. It turned out that the house in question had been owned by a little elderly woman who was one day taken away to a mental hospital, and died there. Anyway, I was given the name of the agents for the house and I commenced the second phase of my experience.

After several weeks a surveyor was sent round to the place and a price set for the purchase. It was £3400. Even back in February of this year this was quite a bargain I thought, especially after a walk through it revealed that outside of a bit of damp there

was nothing wrong with the house that some brooms and some paint couldn't fix. Great I thought this will be easy. Now for a little money to buy it.

DERELICT HOUSE—ONLY £5400

After sorting through the building societies that were not interested in me for a variety of reasons, mainly having to do with membership and residence, I found one that would consider me and it. They did a survey on the property and then sent me a sad letter saying that the property was, in their opinion, derelict and unsuitable for a mortgage. Nobody suggested to me that perhaps they would give me a mortgage which would include some of the £2000 they suggested it would take to repair the house. Not knowing any better and trusting to wise judgement of the learned officials of the building society I gave up even though I knew that it was virtually impossible to buy the same house from an agent at even £5400.

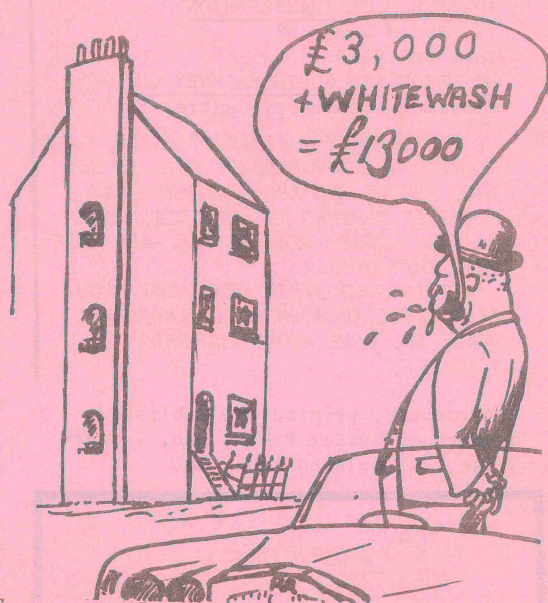
The surprise came about six weeks ago when I was walking past the same 'derelict' house. There was activity inside. Some one I thought has finally bought the place and is doing it up with new windows and a bit of paint. When the place was fully re-done, a sign went up in front advertising the house as for sale. This was the first time I realised that it had been an agent that was doing the conversion. I had a peek inside to see what they had done with it, and as far as I could tell the house was exactly as I had seen it before the 'conversion' except that the walls were newly papered, the garbage in the front had been taken away, and the old fireplaces had been covered over. No new wiring, or heating or anything to make it out of the ordinary. In fact the 'conversion' reminded me of the way smooth talking auto-sales men repaint over the rust and the bumps on the cars they sell.

GAZUMPED—£13000

To make my investigations complete, I called the agent. I asked him if he had any houses for sale in

that particular street. He told me he had a very nice fully-converted 3-bedroomed house which he was selling for just £13,000. The agent? Phillip Phillips of Stamford Hill. The house? 94 Gunton Road, E.5.

But it's all legal, ain't it?



Smart Sands

one man's house
is another man's gravy,
bricks and mortar
a perishable commodity.

Build 'em up, knock 'em down,
Build 'em up and sell;
Never mind the residents,
They can go to hell.

Twenty thousand homeless souls,
Wanderin' through the city.
Twenty thousand more to come,
That's sure to swell the kitty.

Build 'em up and knock 'em down,
Build 'em up, my slavies,
If the old girl won't leave the
place,

Smash it down regardless.

Smart Sands is an honest man,
An honest man and clever,
Twenty-thousand roofless beggars,
Kicked out in all weathers.

Sands is no villain, when all's
done,
He's done what's only legal.
But forty-thousand boots, or more,
Could more than make that equal!

GETTING BETTER ALL THE TIME?

WITH A LITTLE HELP
FROM YOUR FRIENDS

On reading Gutter Press, it prompts me to ask "have things changed from the 'good old days' of the 20's and 30's?"

On casting my mind back to those days, and comparing them with those of the 70's one can see clearly. Let's take unemployment. Are Labour Exchanges any different? Are the unemployed really unemployed? When one speaks to the staff of these places we are told a different story. They are mostly on the *fiddle* and they don't *want* to work.

Well, these were the kind of things they said in the 30's, of course. The Tory bosses want some for the Million-Plus Unemployed.

TRANSVESTITE CLAIMANTS

The Social Security? They were called the Relief Officers, and the PAC in those days. Also when you went there you and them were different. They had the protection of very wide counters, windows, and the police. They employed snoopers like today. Gaud help a poor bloke who was seen leaving a pub. It was a Workhouse for him, and his loved ones. Now we are getting the sexy snoopers. So ladies beware. Get your callers if they are men to wear ladies clothes. Do not get too close to the milkman... too near a man on the bus. You will find a snooper ready to report you and your money fails to arrive.

Why not get together to find out where these snoopers live. After all, what fun could be had by a poster display up and down the street where they live to let their friends and neighbours know what filthy jobs they are doing for Mr. Ted Heath and Sir Keith.

THE SAME OLD BILL

'Gutter Press' No.2 writes about the police as if they were different from 'the good old days'. The only difference today is that they cost the ratepayers of London a damn sight too much! In the old days they used to follow one for miles, going from meeting to meeting on street corners, with their little note books and pencils ready, to see if you spoke any words liable to 'cause a breach of the peace', or 'liable to cause a riot', or the old standby 'assault'.

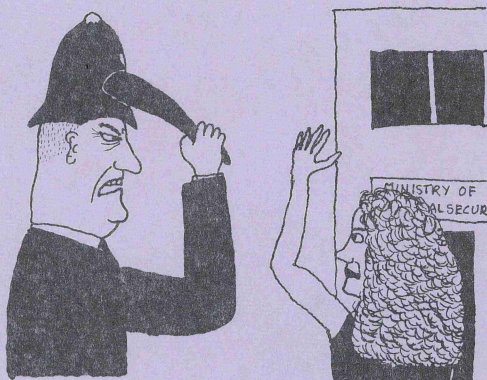
You name it - they had it!

Raids took place on headquarters, homes, etc. So are they different? If you were caught white-washing the walls on roads, you were fined. If you dared to speak outside Labour Exchanges, the same thing happened to you. When Air Vice Marshal, Lord Trenchard became the police chief, then it was the mounted and baton-waving cops who were used. Of course, it is nice being in a Free Country, as we are told. Are things different?

The trouble comes when mums want protection for children crossing roads, playing in streets. We are told: "Sorry, we don't have policemen to spare. Claimants know different.

When they go to either Bonhill Street or Lower Clapton SS, plenty of cops are to spare then. By the way, have they caught the bank robbers from the Hackney bank raid yet? I believe the claimants know something about this. Only it is strange that day there were plenty of cops at Lower Clapton Road SS, but none for the bank raid! But maybe those who called them in may be in the swim. Who knows?

Did any of you car owners know it is wrong to drive the wrong way down a one-way street? But if you are going to Bonhill Street with the Claimants' Union, look up the wrong way or you may crash into a police car going the wrong way down a one-way! I sincerely ask for these police drivers to have a good eye test, so that they can see the blue and white signs. This has happened at least three times. The last time was when they charged a mother with assault by a one-inch square of chocolate.



"BANK ROBBERS MIGHT BE ARMED!"

I hope to give more differences again later. But what is done about these things? Firstly, we must fight together - employed and unemployed. What better organisation than in the Claimants' Union? After all, how long will you be employed? The Claimants' Union unite all people into one group to fight for a living standard. You can gain information on how to help your fellow beings (*and yourselves!*) Many claims have been won. Many more will be won.

The right to be represented by more than one person at the Social Security Offices is being won.

But we need more people to get involved. We ask *all claimants* to read details of the payments they get. All the time, the CU tells them that they are being cheated by the office boys in most SS offices. This has been proved time and time again at appeals of claimants.

Therefore we advise all claimants to look carefully at payments, and in all cases to appeal. Give them work to do! See the Claimants Union members so that they can help support your case at appeals. You too can take on this job. If you don't know how, then come along to an appeal with us. Sit in on one. You will be able next to represent another claimant.

Did you know that if you are in dire need, you can get a food voucher. Well, you can.

That was when only Tesco's and Sainsbury's were on the lists. But now, it seems to have been changed. A member of Hackney CU who is also a member of the London Co-op demanded that vouchers should be made out for the LCS. The poor clerk nearly died. He ranted and raved, but in the end gave in and the claimant got his voucher.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

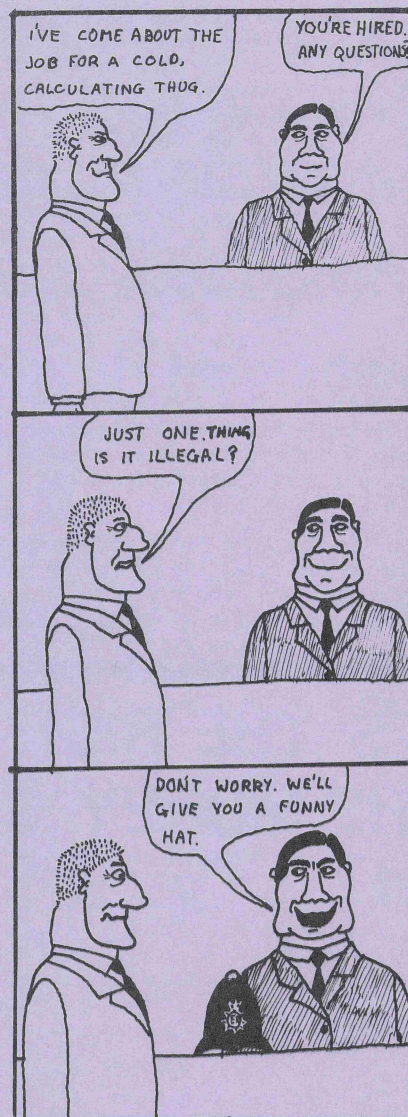
But the clerk, being clever, sent the claimant more than *three miles* away. Well, that lark has been finished!

The question was raised by a Co-op MP and this has resulted in the right of every claimant of being given a voucher to the LCS. At least you will be served by a trade unionist! More than can be said for shop workers in Tesco's or Sainsbury's.

But now it seems that they might give claimants a Giro cheque instead of a food voucher!

I wonder why?

SID



down at the depot

Tuesday June 20th.

This morning London dockers ended their unofficial strike which has had the government shitting hot bricks, and went back to work - for the time being.

But!! Down at the depot, the picketing continues!

At the Midland Cold Storage Co. in Waterden Lane, Hackney (near the stadium) dockers have been out at the gates, warning any lorry driver who tries to deliver freight that if he does, his company would be blacked by dockworkers the length and breadth of the country.

Why is this? Well, talking to the dockers down there, this is their story: Midlands Cold Storage is a warehouse for anything that has to be stored cold - meat, ice cream, frozen fish, butter etc. It's owned by a fat git who calls himself Lord Vesty.

Now... this Fat Lord used to own a lot of cold stores down by the Thames, (Fresh Wharf, Duchy Store, Nelson Store etc) where a lot of dockers used to work. Not so very long ago, this Lord Shirty thought that he could change things around a bit - and make a LOT MORE MONEY.

His plan was

- Close all the cold stores he owned in dockland,
- Sack all the dockers who worked there,
- Sell the land they were built on to speculators at a Fat Profit, so that they can build offices and trendy flats there,
- Shift his container operations to one Big Depot out on Hackney Marshes, where he could rely on getting cheap labour at Low Wages and willing to work Round the Clock.

And, that's what's happened! One by one the Thames depots have closed; dockers have lost their jobs, and Lord Mucky-Undies has raked in the filthy lucre.

It's the same old story everywhere in dockland: the employers have been making new record profits - on the backs of the workers. Meanwhile, many dockers are on the un-

dockers and containers

Already he (Donaldson) was no stranger either to politics or the problems of trade unions at Cambridge at the beginning of the war. He was President of the Federation of University of Conservative Associations two years after Ted Heath had held this post. Later as a barrister after the war he joined the Inns of Court Conservative Association, and assisted in the study on trade unions, 'A Giant's Strength' that it published in 1958.

This was very much the forerunner of the work the Conservatives put in, beginning with their evidence to the Donovan Commission towards constructing a system by which the activities of trade unions might be regulated and placed within a framework of law.

(From 'The Observer' Sunday, 18th June).

attached pool - because containers have taken away their work.

This means they only get fall back money - a fraction of their usual earnings (something like the dole - in fact!)

But now, things are changing. The dockers' union (T.G.W.U) has played a double game for years, recruiting both dockers and depot men. (There is a smaller docks union - the N.A.S.D. - known as the 'Blue Union' which has a better record).

The T.G.W.U., however, has all along pretended that there was no problem in the docks.

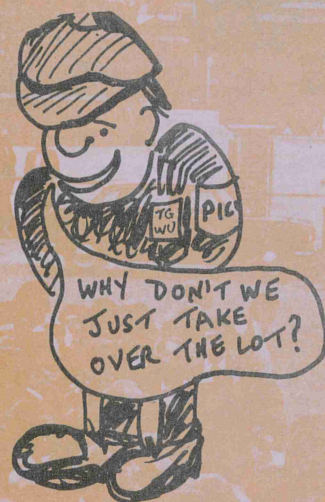
Far from there being no problem - unemployment has risen, and finally the men decided to do something about it.

There's an unofficial committee of shop stewards now, and they're determined that the jobs in these depots (and in the new container bases) should go to dockers.

It's a bad business. The union ignored the problem, and the employers have deliberately played on it to create a split between the dockers and the depot men (who are often members of the same union).

The dockers at Hackney feel bad about claiming the depot jobs which are now held by other people. But they say that these jobs should have been theirs in the first place and that it was only because of union cop-outs that they ever lost them.

Somehow, somewhere, they say, there should be a solution which would mean that dockers would not lose out, and that these two groups of workers, instead of being at each others' throats, could turn on the real enemy - the employer - and take him to pieces, as he so richly deserves, for his dirty dealings.



IT'S THE RICH WHAT KEEPS THE MONEY SING SONG

But sisters, brothers, lets not get worried
We will carry on the fight
We've got the bastards frightened of us
Because, deep down, they know we're right
If we link our arms and charge straight at them
We'll blow their State right out of sight!



(to the tune of 'It's the rich what gets the Pleasure')

Its the rich what keeps the money
And the poor lose theirs in tax
Its the rich what live in mansions
While the poor, they live in shacks
And the rich eat three course dinners
While the poor make do with snacks

The bosses, they own the workers
Ten quid a week if you behave
They let you out when you are dying
With a gold watch for your grave
They call you an 'employee'.
But your just a fucking slave.

If you're fed up with the system
If you want to bring it down
They've got storm troops, they've got spies
To find your den and then surround.
And when they feel like it
They will squash you to the ground.

